GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:25
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
EXPENDITURE ON MEDICARE
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote limited number of essential drugs in order to provide cost effective public health care for the masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the per capita expenditure on medicare in the country is far below the standards prevailing in Asia Pacific region;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the per capita expenditure on medicare?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 25 FOR 20.11.2002

(a): Health is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore the responsibility to provide essential drugs for public health care is being undertaken by the respective State Governments.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been running national disease control programmes for Malaria, Tuberculosis and Leprosy. Provision of free drugs is a part of these programmes.

Besides, under the Reproductive Child Health Programme, a limited number of essential drug items are being supplied in the form of drug kits to various health centres in the districts.

The Planning Commission has been providing additional Central Assistance to the States under PMGY. One of the sectors eligible for funding these schemes is Health. During the current year, the Planning Commission has requested all Sates to make a provision of at least 15 per cent for health sector under PMGY.The guidelines for utilization of PMGY funds under primary health sector say that 50 per cent of the funds should be used for procurement of drugs.

(c): According to World Health Report 2002 published by the WHO, in the Asia Pacific Region, the per capita expenditure on health in India is US $23, which is above the countries like Afghnistan, Nepal, Bangla Desh, Pakistan and Indonesia, but below than China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Thailand.The developed countries like Japan, Australia and New Zealand in this region are of course way ahead of us.

(d) & (e): The Central Government has been making efforts to increase its contribution to the public health expenditure.The overall plan outlay in the health sector in the 9th Five Year Plan has been 4.1 per cent of the total plan outlay as compared to 3.24 per cent during the 8th Five Year Plan. The National Health Policy, 2002 envisages increasing the Central and State Government contribution from the existing 15 per cent and 5.5 per cent to 25 per cent and 8 per cent respectively of the total spending in the health sector by 2010. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes and RCH activities.Health infrastructure in 7 States (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh) are also being upgraded under the State Health System Development Project with World Bank assistance.